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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Sunday, December 20, 2020, at 12 p.m.

Senate

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our souls long for You, for we find strength and joy in Your presence. The Heavens keep telling of your wonders, and the skies declare what You have done. We thank You for the star of Bethlehem.

Guide our lawmakers to put their trust in You, seeking in every undertaking to know and do Your will. Lord, when our Senators go through difficulties, may they remember that with Your help, they can accomplish the seemingly impossible. Inspire them to find strength and courage from Your guidance, as they trust You to direct their steps.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

2020 ELECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in this town, political arguments often change places very quickly. Actually, observers could get whiplash when that happens.

Now, just think about just a few months back. Before this election, we had elected Democrats scaring voters with irresponsible conspiracy theories that President Trump was going to somehow use his office to interfere with State elections or that he was in cahoots with the Postal Service not to deliver ballots.

Remember back after the 2016 election, the irresponsibly worded talking point was that Russia “hacked our elections,” leading to polls 2 years later showing that 67 percent of Democrats believed falsely that “Russia tampered with vote tallies in order to get Donald Trump elected.”

Now let’s turn to the 2020 election just completed. Those same people are now earnestly warning of the dangers of Americans questioning certified election results. Think just for a minute. Those who supported hashtag “resist” after Trump’s election are now lecturing others about the need for faith in elections.

It is kind of disturbing to me—the hutzpah of some of the people around here, what they said in 2016 and after versus what they are saying now.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, our Nation stands at a crossroads in our months-long battle with the new coronavirus. Tracking recent developments lately has felt like watching a split-screen television. On the one hand, Operation Warp Speed has fostered a modern medical miracle. The genius of science has brought forward safe and effective vaccines at a pace which, just months ago, many claimed would be impossible. For about 9 months now, our Nation has been treading water altogether. Now the road to victory is in sight.

But at the same time, even as we see this hopeful sunrise on the horizon, in the here and now, we are still facing an ongoing five-alarm national crisis. The virus is surging across our country. Two days ago, my home State of Kentucky set another bleak new record—the most Kentuckians lost in a single day of this pandemic so far. Nationwide, since the start of December, we have lost around 3,000 of our fellow Americans to this disease every single day.

Meanwhile, although the American people have built our economic recovery with more speed and resilience than anyone had anticipated, we have known all along that recovering prosperity would come hand-in-hand with defeating the virus. Thus, millions of working families across the Nation are still under terrible strain.

Last week, economists thought we would see a slight downward tick in new unemployment claims. Instead, the numbers shot up, logging 885,000 new claims in just 1 week—almost

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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